

A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DECREASING ROUTING
LATENCY FOR SWITCHING PLATFORMS WITH
VARIABLE CONFIGURATION

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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

10 A method for decreasing routing latency of a
switching platform comprises identifying ports which
have changed their operational state and modifying the
port polling code associated with the respective ports
so that operational ports are polled for frames to be
routed, while non-operational ports are not polled. In
one embodiment, the method is implemented in a fibre
channel switch. Non-operational ports are identified
15 as having operational states below a pre-determined
threshold level of functionality. The polling code for
the ports is modified while polling operations are
carried out in the switch. The code for a newly
operational port is modified by copying into the code
20 one or more instructions that poll the port for a frame
and routes the frame. The code for a newly non-
operational port is modified by copying into the code a
branch instruction that bypasses the remainder of the
polling code for the port. The frame routing latency
25 of the switch is reduced because ports which are non-
operational and will not produce frames are not polled.